



California Postsecondary Education Commission

770 L Street, Suite 1160 • Sacramento, California 95814

www.cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact

Karen Humphrey

khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov • (916) 445-1504

University of California San Diego Awarded \$1,000,000 Improving Teacher Quality Grant

SACRAMENTO — November 7, 2005 — The University of California San Diego has won funding for a new professional development project for teachers in the core content areas of reading/language arts, mathematics, and English Language Development. The university was awarded a four-year grant of \$1,000,000 by the California Postsecondary Education Commission (CPEC) in a statewide competition. The project, titled “Access to the Core: Support for Secondary English Language Learners,” will work with teams of lead teachers in 12 middle and high schools in Local District 6 of the Los Angeles Unified School District. More than 300 teachers will receive intensive institutes and academic year follow-up aimed at closing instructional gaps in critical 8th and 9th grade language arts, pre-algebra, and algebra.

The grant is part of the federal Improving Teacher Quality Program funded under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. It is the latest edition of a long-standing federal program aimed at improving student achievement through professional development for teachers. Over two decades of administering the program, CPEC has awarded more than \$75 million to colleges and universities working with high-need K-12 schools throughout California. The 2005 grants focus on improving academic literacy in high schools. They also require rigorous evaluation research to demonstrate how the professional development affects student achievement.

Taking note of this requirement, CPEC Executive Director Murray Haberman observed that “Being required to demonstrate the impact of the professional development on student achievement, not just on teacher behavior, is critical and supports CPEC’s overall commitment to accountability in educational programs.”

—MORE—

Howard Welinsky, chairman of the Commission, says the grants play an important role in making sure every student has a highly qualified teacher. “The program has had a long-term impact on helping teachers strengthen their content knowledge and their understanding of effective teaching strategies—key elements of education reform,” he said. “UC San Diego and its partner schools should be proud of the quality of their proposal and its potential for improving teaching and learning in the Los Angeles area.”

More information about the Commission and its work can be found at its website at www.cpec.ca.gov. For more information about the state program, contact Karen Humphrey, Administrator, Improving Teacher Quality Program, at 916-445-1504 or khumphrey@cpec.ca.gov. For information on the project described above, contact Gretchen Laue at 858-822-0148 or glaue@ucsd.edu.

###

The California Postsecondary Education Commission advises the Governor and Legislature on higher education policy and fiscal issues. Its primary focus is to ensure that the state’s educational resources are used effectively to provide Californians with postsecondary education opportunities.